

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-13 AID-20 RSR-01 /152 W

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R 230900Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5326

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

S E C R E T COTONOU 1069

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VS, DM

SUBJECT: RECOGNITION OF PRG

REF: SAIGON 12986

PARIS FOR USDEL JEC

1. REFTEL REPORTS THAT FVN SUSPECTS PRC WAS BEHIND RECENT MRGD RECOGNITION OF PRG, AND THAT THIS RECOGNITION COINCIDED WITH MRGD DECISION TO CLOSE DOWN REPUBLIC OF CHINA AID PROGRAM. ASSISTANT TO GVN POLITICAL AFFAIRS MINISTER KY ALSO BELIEVES ACTION AGAINST ROC AID PROGRAM AND PRG RECOGNITION COINCIDED WITH \$45 MILLION PRC LOAN TO DAHOMEY. EMBASSY SAIGON MIGHT WANT TO PASS ON FOLLOWING CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS AS WE KNOW THEM, IF IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO KY:

(A) DECEMBER 29, 1972 - ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS SIGNED IN PEKING BY MRGD FOREIGN MINISTER ALLADAYE.

(B) JANUARY 10, 1973 - ALLADAYE TELLS ROC AMBASSADOR TCHEN
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MRGD INTENDS RESUME RELATIONS WITH PRC AND BREAK WITH ROC, BUT

REQUESTS CONTINUATION OF AGRICULTURAL AID MISSION. TCHEN INFORMS MINISTER IN ABSENCE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, AID MISSION WOULD HAVE TO GO.

(C) JANUARY 13 ALLADAYE PRESS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCES RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS AND \$45 MILLION PRC LOAN.

(D) JANUARY 18 - FORMAL MRGD NOTE REQUESTING CLOSURE OF ROC EMBASSY.

(E) JANUARY 28 - ROC ANNOUNCES SUSPENSION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, CLOSURE OF ROC EMBASSY AND WITHDRAWAL OF AID MISSION.

(F) FEBRUARY 12 - ROC AMBASSADOR LEAVES DAHOMEY.

(G) FEBRUARY 16 - LAST ROC AID TECHNICIAN LEAVES DAHOMEY.

(H) FEBRUARY 19 - FIRST CONTINGENT OF PRC EMBASSY ARRIVES COTONOU.

(I) MARCH 14 - PROTOCOL SIGNED AT DAHOMEAN EMBASSY PARIS RECOGNIZING PRG (THERE HAS STILL BEEN NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THIS EVENT IN DAHOMEY).

2. SINCE TAKING OVER LAST OCTOBER, MRGD HAS GONE OUT OF WAY TO OPEN UP RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST WORLD. MOVE TO RECOGNIZE PRG STRICTLY POLITICAL TO SHOW LEFTISTS AT HOME AND OTHER AFRICAN STATES THAT MRGD SERIOUS ABOUT BREAKING WITH PRO-WESTERN PAST IN FAVOR OF NON-ALIGNMENT. WHILE PRC ENCOURAGEMENT OF THIS RECOGNITION CANNOT BE RULED OUT, WE DOUBT PRC REQUIRED IT AS QUID PRO QUO FOR LOAN. PRC'S MAIN OBJECTIVE WAS TO GET BACK INTO DAHOMEY AND GET ROC OUT.
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